

1    CLAIMS:

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3    1. A method for providing transaction services wherein the  
4       user of the transaction services interacts with a  
5       computer-based transaction machine which has  
6       transaction devices, said computer-based transaction  
7       machine being controlled by one or more software  
8       applications, said computer-based transaction machine  
9       having an operating system which controls and receives  
10      information from said transaction devices;  
11      characterized in that the one or more software  
12      applications interact with said transaction devices  
13      through a programming interface of middleware software,  
14      said middleware software interacting with the operating  
15      system, wherein the services provided by the middleware  
16      software depend on the capabilities of the transaction  
17      devices but the programming interface does not depend  
18      on the capabilities of the transaction devices.

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20    2. A method for providing transaction services according  
21      to Claim 1 wherein the transaction machine is selected  
22      from a group which comprises automatic teller machines,  
23      kiosks and electronic point of sale machines.

24

25    3. A method for providing transaction services according  
26      to any preceding Claim wherein middleware software  
27      comprises a series of transaction objects and controls  
28      for standard device functions.

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30    4. A method for providing transaction services according  
31      to Claim 3 wherein transaction objects are independent  
32      of the interface between the user and .../

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- 1 24. A method for providing transaction services according  
2 to any of Claims 19 to 23 wherein use of a web browser  
3 allows conventional web sites to be displayed by the  
4 computer-based transaction machine.
- 5
- 6 25. A method for providing transaction services according  
7 to Claim 24 wherein middleware software allows or  
8 disallows access to particular web sites according to a  
9 rule database.
- 10
- 11 26. A method for providing transaction services according  
12 to Claim 24 or Claim 25 wherein middleware software is  
13 adapted to customise time-out of the display of  
14 individual internet web sites.
- 15
- 16 27. A method for providing transaction services according  
17 to any preceding Claim wherein the computer-based  
18 transaction machine is adapted to allow the software  
19 applications and middleware to be altered across a  
20 network by an authority.
- 21
- 22 28. A method for providing transaction services according  
23 to any preceding Claim wherein the transaction machine  
24 can communicate information about their status to a  
25 remote monitoring station across a network.
- 26
- 27 29. A computer-based transaction machine having transaction  
28 devices; said computer-based transaction machine being  
29 controlled by one or more software applications, said  
30 computer-based transaction machine having an operating  
31 system which controls and receives information from  
32 said transaction devices; characterized in that the one

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1 or more software applications interact with said  
2 transaction devices through a programming interface of  
3 middleware software, said middleware software  
4 interacting with the operating system, wherein the  
5 services provided by the middleware software depend on  
6 the capabilities of the transaction devices but the  
7 programming interface does not depend on the  
8 capabilities of the transaction devices.

9

10 30. A computer-based transaction machine according to Claim  
11 29 wherein the transaction machine is selected from a  
12 group which comprises automatic teller machines, kiosks  
13 and electronic point of sale machines.

14

15 31. A computer-based transaction machine according to Claim  
16 29 or Claim 30 wherein middleware software comprises a  
17 series of transaction objects and controls for standard  
18 device functions.

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20 32. A computer-based transaction machine according to Claim  
21 31 wherein transaction objects are independent of the  
22 interface between the user and the transaction machine;  
23 the interface between the user and the transaction  
24 machine being customisable.

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26 33. A computer-based transaction machine according to Claim  
27 31 or Claim 32 wherein controls implement a  
28 capabilities interface.

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